CIA Releases - Hoch

Dear Paul, 8/25/77

Your letter of the 22d and the third-class mailingof the notes on the CIA releases both came today. I'll make what suggestons I can as I read them.

Glad to get them, thanks.

This may be broken up because my days now are more broken up. I got the mail on the way to the local lab for a weekly blood-test, started to read there while waiting, first what was on top, and then, when I got him, realized these were not in chrono order. So as I can I'll continue with what I've begun and then take the others chronologically.

This, too, will be broken up because I stop periodically to walk, necessary for the circulatory problems.

On the letter and the FBI's personal records on me at least until I have all I want no public attention. They have not been complete for the period covered, they have withheld what I'll appeal and they have other files on other sibjects and of other periods. So I want to be as patient as possible.

As I think I told you the person who spoke to the FBI has seven letters in his last name. Jim suggests the possibility of Charach, who was then in touch with Bud, who could have told him what got all out of reality by the time the FBI put it back to Washington.

I wondered about a press source but in LA as of then there was nobe. Nor police.

Your 5/5/76 NOTES ON KEY CIA ITEMS, quite good on the first page, which took my eye immediately.

What was in Mexico City, like the pictures and tape, where provided to Dallas immediately, by hand, an agent named as I recall Rudd. I know this included the CE237 pix. I do not know that he took a tape with him. I do know that an unspecified agent or agents of the FBI who were familiar with Oswald's voice hear the tape(s) by 11/23/63. Hoover's letter to Rowley on this is unclear on whether they said it was not LHO from the pictures or the tape. Howard points out he dies not say from the tape.

Under Item 154 you refer to your memo on CD 1084a. I don't think I've seen that. But consistent with what you say here is the captioning of all the FBI's records, not on the assassination but on Russia, Cuba, etc.

Here I suggest possible significance to what I believe is the case, that all of this was under Angleton, whose had special views of the world and world forces. And beliefs. I also suggest that they wanted LBJ to develop what you accurately call his "expressed fears." Remember, Warren developed them, too.

What you say about clas ifications and withholding under Item 258 could be important for JL for court use if you could without great difficulty provide illustrative copies. Ditto for others like it (i.e. Item 337.)

Item 451, Rocca memo: if you read the original AP Harker story you will find that its lead is exactly what Roccas say it under no circumstances it, addressed to attacks on Cuba rather than on Castro or his alleged t reat at retaliation. The Commission did have the story. As I recall, Liebeler asked SS to get it. So they knew separately.

If AP's David Martin did not tell you you told me that he had read Harker's original notes. He was unreceptive, with me, when I suggested he had been misled.

945-927Q: Rankin was in Washington the night the presses rolled on the Report, I think 9/24/64.

Batch F 1347-1059, on Hoke May: He was first with the Houma story, saying to me that the original source of info was Navy Intel. He was also, as I recall, writing hot stories about CIA involvements down there. I thinks one is that the Houma heist was tipped by the CIA when the stuff belonged to the French colons in Algeria.

1362-1061A and an earlier reference to "Project Resistance." I think against us, critics, is what that was. Can't recall source.

1361-1061A Iwas there was Martens was charged with attempted homicide by the N.O. police. He had put a knife in the gut of another. Garrison dropped the charges after his own people

looked into it and decided self defense was legitimate. It happens I heard about this before they did and did not believe it was really self defense. Fight over a gril.

1363-501. You might want to bear in mind that Arcacha also had a short-lived second "group," for fund-raising, with Ronnie Caire.

The numbered N.O. office items on what related to Garrison are not all released, as I recall from when I went over that section. I think your notation is of 103. Only a few are out. And there must have been more than 103.

I'm pretty certain the CIA had more than one office in N.O. It had an overt office, I think for DCS and recruiting. But it also had a large base or station, the chief of which was named Leake. I think it was on St. Charles Ave. If you see any referemces to anything that could indicate the location of the clandestine office please let me know. I'm also sure that they had a mail operation there for a while, mail to Latin America often going through N.O. Inaddition the nature of the city made it a prime source of normal and proper intelligence. This required that people be there to obtain it.

On the Mexico City picture, for what it is worth to you for years I have known about this and the intercepts from a private source. According to my source the photographer was at an identifiable place of business. From this I suggest that there could be a legitimate concern that rudimentary photo analysis could diclose the point from which the pictures were taken. I am not saying this is certified information. Merely that I have been told and the fact of the intercepts was confirmed.

On your references to Edward Scannell Butler and his still-wtihheld SISS testimony: I have reason to believe that before he made his right turn Butler was an operative for at least the Louisiana legislative counterprart and had pretended to be deep left.

I think years ago I suggested to you that he may have had other connections of that kind and period that would be regarded as sensitive.

His INCA could also have provided complication, as could its wheels, of who Cohsner is but one.

Don t forget in thinking of these things and the CIA in N.O. that for years it bought up a big chunk of the night on a powerful, clear-channel station, WWL. It was used for anti-Castro broadcasts. It covered much of the eastern half of the country. It has a powerful nighttime signal all the way up here, for example. It did more than reach Cuba. Jesuit-owned WWL. You can be sure it was also listened to by refugees from Castro all over the U.S.

What we don't know is if there were interconnections. We also don't know all the operations going on down there. While the withholdings are generally unjustified, which means you can't draw too much from all withholdings, I do suggest that it might be wise to bear these kinds of possibilities in mind when you attempt to evaluate them, which is in general a good thing to try to do.

Sincerely,